

LEGISLATIVE LORE

An act concerning the improvement of public roads which provides that any town may build or improve any public road or section thereof according to specifications approved by the highway commission is the first calendar matter for Thursday. If such improvement is in addition to roads built with money allotted to said towns by the state, the highway commissioner may make an allowance to said town from the money allotted in payment of the proposition paid by the state for roads improved by said aid under the provisions of chapter 264 of the public acts of 1907.

The committee on cities and boroughs made favorable report on Wednesday on a substitute senate bill concerning building lines in New London and authorizing the city to abate the smoke nuisance and to engage in the ice business. The report was tabled for calendar and printing.

The committee on cities and boroughs made unfavorable report on the act that provided for the consolidation of the city and town governments of Norwich. Mr. King of the committee stated that there was practically no favorable appearance before the committee and that the matter was withdrawn. The committee report was accepted and bill rejected.

Messrs. Magee of Watertown, Boyd of Woodbury, Stevens of Rocky Hill, Davenport of Pomfret, Davis of North Haven, Lucy of Middletown and Rathbun of Groton, members of the committee, on incorporations, left Hartford at 2 o'clock Wednesday afternoon for a trip to the hospital for the insane at Norwich. They went by train to Willimantic and hence by automobile.

An act concerning the practice of midwifery was taken from the calendar, reported favorably by the committee on public health and safety. The bill provided for a board of examiners of three physicians to examine applicants for a certificate to practice midwifery. The applicant must be a graduate of a school of midwifery and the examination fee is \$10. The penalty is a fine of \$100 or imprisonment not more than six months, or both, and the state board of health may revoke the license issued to any person convicted of a felony or of unprofessional conduct, or of any offense punishable by imprisonment in the state prison, or upon the application of all the members of the examining board. There was lengthy discussion which supported the continuance of the present provisions. The matter came to a sudden end when Representative Egan of Colchester arose and stated that the doctors of the state have ample protection, and moved for indefinite postponement. The motion prevailed.

Students of parliamentary law have opportunity to learn new points in the Connecticut house of representatives, where the previous question prevails immediately after a motion is made and with no discussion intervening, and where a "yea" or "nay" is an appeal from the decision of the speaker is permissible. These two incidents happened but once each during the session, just to establish a precedent. It is a fact as prevalent as the turkey trot for members to move for reconsideration, with the hope that the motion will not prevail, on matters that have been passed in order to clinch with the speaker the real purpose of the motion to reconsider will be lost in the shuffle.

The act concerning extension of tracks by the Groton and Stonington Street Railway company was called from the calendar on Wednesday. On motion of Mr. Eno of the railroad committee the bill was recommitted to the committee. Favorable report on the act had been previously made by the committee.

Mr. Everts of Milford acted as speaker of the house on Wednesday in the absence of Speaker Webster, and for the first time during the session an appeal was taken from the decision of speaker. The appeal was taken by Mr. Wilson of Bridgeport on the question whether he had raised the question of a doubt of a vote at the proper time. There was long discussion that resulted in tabling the appeal, a parliamentarian's doing it.

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tary procedure new to even a Connecticut general assembly.

At an executive session of the committee on roads, bridges and rivers Wednesday afternoon it was decided to make a favorable report on the act for the state to accept from the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad company the railroad bridge across the Thames river between New London and Groton, to be used for highway purposes. If the report is accepted and bill passed the present session of the legislature will be asked to appoint a committee of examination to make report to the next legislature. The bill carries with it an appropriation of \$250,000 to prepare the bridge and approaches for highway purposes, to build an additional pier and to substitute a lift for the present swing draw of the bridge.

The bill entitled an act prohibiting snaring was taken from the table on motion of Mr. Landon of Old Saybrook and passed. It provides that no animal shall be snared, and no snare or similar device for taking animals shall be set, placed or used where such animals can be taken. Any such snare or similar device may be destroyed by any person. Any person violating shall be fined not less than \$25 nor more than \$50. The fine when collected shall be paid one-half to the person who furnished the information that led to conviction and the other half to the town.

Resolution was passed providing for the debtors bills of the house to the amount of \$13,480, due to mature on May 1, 1913. This is in accordance with prior action which provided for payment to members by the state. The committee also reported unfavorably on the appointment of a commissioner of agriculture at a salary of \$2,000 and the report was accepted and bill rejected.

The committee on cities and boroughs made unfavorable report on act providing for the government of cities. Chairman King explaining that a bill giving cities home rule was presented later in the session. The report was accepted and bill rejected.

The resolution restoring forfeited rights to John Flippin of Windham was passed under suspension of the rules after explanation by Mr. Walker of Union. Flippin was convicted of theft several years ago in Willimantic and he was sentenced to prison. The resolution was presented by Representative William Kelley of Killingly, and with Representatives Kelley and Bagley, Congressman Dunn of Willimantic appeared at the committee hearing and favored the resolution. The committee report was accepted and bill rejected.

The committee on judiciary made a favorable report on a resolution appointing James A. Shea judge of the city court of Willimantic. The resolution was given the usual course and tabled for calendar.

The committee on education, through Chairman Tracy, made unfavorable report on a bill providing for the erection of a dormitory in connection with the state normal school at Willimantic. Mr. Tracy said there may be need of such a dormitory but the committee did not deem it advisable to favor the project at this time. The report was accepted and bill rejected.

It is occasionally demonstrated that the representatives from the same city are not always agreed on all matters brought to the legislature from their constituents. This was demonstrated in the house Wednesday when Representatives Lockwood and Ryle of Stamford, intimate social and political friends, crossed rapids on an act concerning an amendment of resolution incorporating the Stamford children's home, an institution supported by charitable disposed residents of Stamford. The amendment empowers the trustees to place children such as is exercised by the county commissioners in regard to county homes. Mr. Lockwood favored the amendment and Mr. Ryle opposed, indicating that the amendment was not in keeping with the foundation of the home nearly 20 years ago and which tended to proselytism. Both made able speeches that seemed with real argument. The committee on humane institutions had made favorable report on the amendment and the report was accepted and amendment adopted.

The committee on banks reported favorably a bill reorganizing the office of the bank commissioners, and making more rigid the requirements of the law in relation to the examination of banks and the duties of treasurers of savings banks. The salaries of the commissioners are made \$4,000 per year and there shall be a chief clerk at a salary of \$2,500.

A financial message from the governor dealing with the state's finances and recommending a state tax was read in the house Wednesday. On motion of Mr. Healy the communication was printed in the journal and referred to the committee on finance.

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